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EXPANSION OF PICOCYANOBACTERIA IN AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

Summary

Picocyanobacteria are common in freshwater, brackish and marine ecosystems throughout the world. They play an essential role in primary production and their domination in phytoplankton biomass is common particularly in oligotrophic waters. However, this group of photoautotrophic organisms still remains insufficiently investigated. The number of works on the occurrence of massive blooms of picocyanobacteria, their role in aquatic habitats and potential toxicity has notably increased in last years. Filling existing gaps in the knowledge of mechanisms responsible for the global expansion of these organisms can provide a better understanding of functioning of the aquatic environments. In this review, we summarized the most recent information concerning picocyanobacteria and the occurrence of their massive blooms in many aquatic ecosystems.

Keywords: aquatic ecosystems, blooms, picoplankton, picocyanobacteria